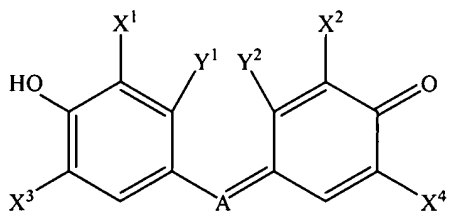


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound having the structure:



wherein:

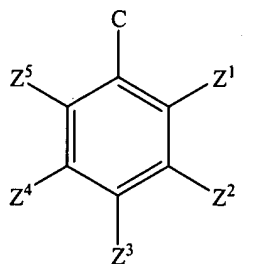
each of X¹ and X² is ~~are each~~ independently ~~H, Me, F, Cl, Br, or I, SO₃H, CO₂H, CONH₂, CONMe₂, CN, or NO₂;~~

X³ is NHCH₂R, or NHSO₂R, wherein R is ~~CH₂OOOH, CH₂CH₂NG⁺G², substituted 2-hydroxyphenyl, or~~ a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring, ~~G¹ and G² are H, Me, Et, CH₂CH₂OH, or together are (CH₂)₄, (CH₂)₅, CH₂CH₂OCH₂CH₂, or CH₂CH₂NHCH₂CH₂;~~

X⁴ is ~~H, Me, F, Cl, Br, I, SO₃H, CO₂H, CN, OMe,~~ NHCH₂R, or NHSO₂R, wherein R is as defined above,

Y¹ and Y² ~~are each independently H, or~~ taken together are -O-, -S-, -Se-, -CMe₂-, -NH-, -NMe-, or -NPh-;

A is ~~N, CH, C CN, C CF₃, C CH₂CH₂OOOH, C CH=CHCOOH,~~  
or



wherein:

$Z^1$  is H,  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ , or  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ;

each of  $Z^2$  and  $Z^5$  ~~is are each~~ independently H, F, or Cl;

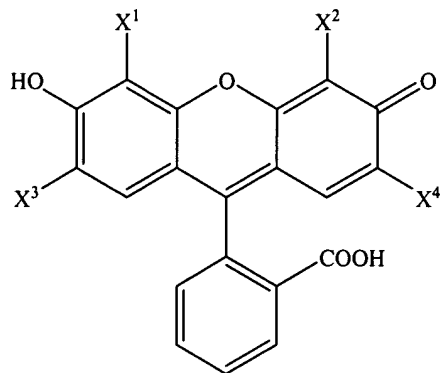
each of  $Z^3$  and  $Z^4$  ~~is are~~ independently H, F, Cl,  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}_2$ , NCS,  $\text{NHCOCH}_2\text{I}$ ,  $\text{SCH}_2\text{OOH}$ ,  $\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$ , (N-succinimidyl)oxycarbonyl, (N-succinimidyl)oxycarbonylmethylthio, N-maleimidyl, or 3,5-dichloro-2,4,6-triazinylamino,  ~~$\text{CONH}_2$ , or  $\text{SO}_2\text{NH}_2$ , wherein Q is H,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$ -alkyl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_m$ ,  $\text{OOH}$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n$ ,  $\text{NH}_2$ , or  $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_k$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$ , wherein m is 1 to about 11, n is 2 to about 12, and k is 1 to about 3~~

or tautomers and physiologically acceptable salts thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein  $Z^1$  is  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ , and  $Z^2$ ,  $Z^3$ ,  $Z^4$ , and  $Z^5$  are each independently H.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound having the structure:



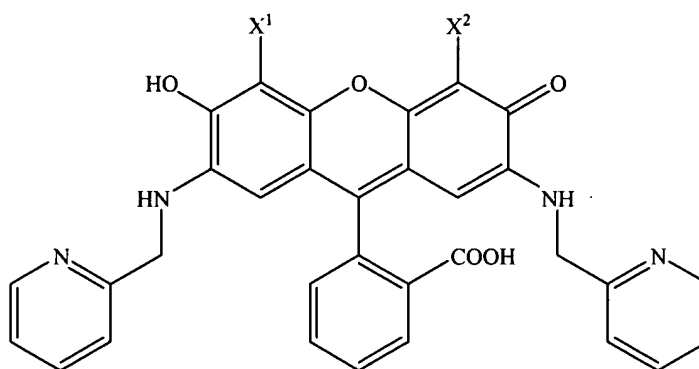
wherein:

each of  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  ~~is are each~~ independently ~~H, Me, F, Cl, Br, or I,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ,  $\text{CONH}_2$ ,  $\text{CONMe}_2$ , CN, or  $\text{NO}_2$ ;~~

$X^3$  and  $X^4$  are  $\text{NHCH}_2\text{R}$  or  $\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}$ , wherein R is  ~~$\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NG}^+\text{G}^-$ , substituted 2-hydroxyphenyl, or a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring,  $\text{G}^+$  and  $\text{G}^-$  are H, Me, Et,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ , or together are  $(\text{CH}_2)_4$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2)_6$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ , or  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ .~~

5. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 4, wherein each  $X^3$  and  $X^4$  ~~is are each~~ independently  $\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}$ , ~~wherein R is  $\text{CH}_2\text{OOH}$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NG}^+\text{G}^2$ , substituted 2-hydroxyphenyl, or a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring, and wherein  $\text{G}^+$  and  $\text{G}^2$  are H, Me, Et,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ , or  $\text{G}^+$  and  $\text{G}^2$  taken together are  $(\text{CH}_2)_4$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2)_5$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ , or  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2$ .~~

6. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 4 having the structure



wherein:

each  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  ~~is are each~~ independently F, Me or Cl.

7. - 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An adduct, comprising a product of bonding of ~~The the~~ compound of claim 1 ~~[[,]] and wherein the compound reacts with to~~ a target sequence in the presence of a chelating substance including in the presence of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ion, wherein the adduct is capable of generating to generate a detectable signal.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~adduct compound~~ of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, wherein the detectable signal is compound reacts with a target sequence in the presence of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  ion to generate a fluorescent signal.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~adduct compound~~ of claim 12, wherein the target sequence is a histidine-rich peptide sequence.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~adduct compound~~ of claim 13, wherein the histidine-rich peptide sequence comprises ~~about~~ 6 histidine residues.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A kit, comprising:

(a) a compound of claim 1 [[,]];

(b) a chelating substance including  $Zn^{2+}$  ion; and

(c) a target sequence,

wherein in the presence of  $Zn^{2+}$  ion, the compound of claim 1 is capable of binding to the a target sequence in a recombinant fusion protein to generate a detectable signal; ~~and a binding partner comprising a target sequence~~, the target sequence comprising a histidine-rich peptide sequence.

17. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 16, wherein the target sequence comprises ~~about~~ 6 histidine residues.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim ~~19~~ 16, wherein the detectable signal is a fluorescent signal.

20. (Currently Amended) A complex, comprising a product of reaction  
between:

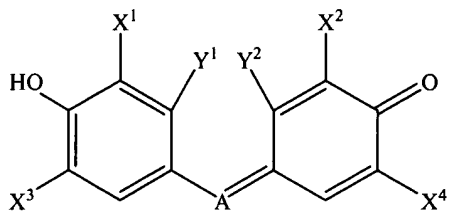
~~a~~ (a) a compound of claim 1;

~~b~~ (b) a targeting sequence comprising a histidine-rich peptide sequence; and

~~c~~ (c)  $Zn^{2+}$  ion.

21. (Currently Amended) The complex of claim 20, wherein the histidine-rich peptide sequence comprises ~~about~~ 6 histidine residues.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of labeling a histidine-rich protein, comprising contacting ~~providing~~ a fusion protein ~~comprising~~ including a native protein and a targeting sequence, ~~and contacting the fusion protein~~ in the presence of an effective amount of  $Zn^{2+}$  ion, with a compound having the structure:



wherein:

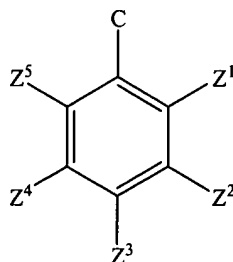
each of  $X^1$  and  $X^2$  ~~is are each~~ independently ~~H, Me, F, Cl, Br, or I,  $SO_3H$ ,  $CO_2H$ ,  $CONH_2$ ,  $CONMe_2$ , CN, or  $NO_2$ ;~~

$X^3$  is  $NHCH_2R$ , or  $NHSO_2R$ , wherein R is  ~~$CH_2OOH$ ,  $CH_2CH_2NG^+G^2$ , substituted 2-hydroxyphenyl, or a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring,  $G^+$  and  $G^2$  are H, Me, Et,  $CH_2CH_2OH$ , or together are  $(CH_2)_4$ ,  $(CH_2)_6$ ,  $CH_2CH_2OCH_2CH_2$ , or  $CH_2CH_2NHCH_2CH_2$ ;~~

$X^4$  is ~~H, Me, F, Cl, Br, I,  $SO_3H$ ,  $CO_2H$ , CN, OMe,  $NHCH_2R$ , or  $NHSO_2R$ ,~~ wherein R is as defined above,

$Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  ~~are each independently H, or~~ taken together are -O-, -S-, -Se-, -CMe<sub>2</sub>-, -NH-, -NMe-, or -NPh-;

A is ~~N, CH, C-CN, C-CF<sub>3</sub>, C- $CH_2CH_2OOH$ , C-CH=CHCOOH, or~~



wherein:

$Z^1$  is H,  $CO_2H$ , or  $SO_3H$ ;

each of  $Z^2$  and  $Z^5$  ~~is are each~~ independently H, F, or Cl;  
each of  $Z^3$  and  $Z^4$  ~~is are~~ independently H, F, Cl,  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}_2$ , NCS,  $\text{NHCOCH}_2\text{I}$ ,  $\text{SCH}_2\text{OOH}$ ,  $\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$ , (N-succinimidyl)oxycarbonyl, (N-succinimidyl)oxycarbonylmethylthio, N-maleimidyl, or 3,5-dichloro-2,4,6-triazinylamino,  ~~$\text{CONH}_2$ , or  $\text{SO}_2\text{NH}_2$ , wherein Q is H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl,  $(\text{CH}_2)_m$ ,  $\text{OOH}$ ,  $(\text{CH}_2)_n$ ,  $\text{NH}_2$ , or  $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_k$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$ , wherein m is 1 to about 11, n is 2 to about 12, and k is 1 to about 3~~

or tautomers and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, thereby labeling ~~a~~ the histidine-rich protein.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 22, wherein the histidine-rich ~~peptide sequence~~ protein comprises ~~about~~ 6 histidine residues.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the compound is capable of generates generating a detectable signal.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the signal is a fluorescent signal.

27. (Original) The compound of claim 5 having the structure:

